

# “How the plans have developed”

Summary of community participation, stakeholder and public consultations, 05 December 2012 – 20 October 2014

## Statistical summary

### Your Park, Your Say community engagement programme

Your park, your say = **788 participants** (of which 390 primary school aged children and 398 mixed ages)

- Schools engagement = 390 children 5 to 11 years and 48 teachers, teaching assistants and volunteer parents
- Youth engagement = 130 young people aged 13 – 21 years
- Sport, wellbeing and outdoor activities = 40 adult participants and coaches
- Community gardens = 50 participants and professionals
- Heritage, arts and cultural activities = 30 adult stakeholders
- Visual identity, logo and communication styles = 100+ children, young people and adults 5 – 80 years

### Stakeholder Working Group meetings

Attendance at stakeholder and community group meeting = **140 delegates**

- 05 December 2012 (35), 01 February 2013 (40), 06 August 2013 (15), 14 February 2014 (30), 20 October 2014 (20)

### User and Non-User surveys

Total contributors = **429 surveyed** (260 park user surveys completed, 169 non users’ surveys completed)

### Masterplan public consultation

Shared with local residents and park visitors = **audience 150** (50 completed Masterplan questionnaire surveys, 150 at road-show events)

### Delivery Phase 2 community design workshops

Participants = **475** (discovery days at the park 355, design workshops 100, sharing event 20)

- Various community group sessions (5 x 20), park workshops (3 x 25) and a sharing event (20)

### Photo history project

Involvement = **5 contributors** from local residents and the Erith & Belvedere Historical Society

- How many correspondents have taken part before the Heritage Lottery Fund application in August 2013 = **1,282**
- How many correspondents have taken part since the Heritage Lottery Fund confirmed its support in January 2014 = **525**
- Total Number of contributors at the above sessions, meetings and workshops, and having completed forms and questionnaires = **1,807**

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

### Your Park, Your Say - Community Engagement consultation programme (January – March 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>School Engagement</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	School visits to the park with guided ‘trail through time’ sessions with North West Kent Countryside Partnership and creative arts sessions within school
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	Anne Brown (Advanced Skills Teacher, Education and Visual Arts Consultant, qualified leader of outdoor activities and expeditions)
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Northwood Primary Yr 4</li> <li>2. St Fidelis Primary Y4</li> <li>3. East Wickham Junior Yr 5</li> <li>4. Lessness Heath Primary Yr 3</li> <li>5. Willow Bank Primary Yr 1</li> <li>6. Bexley Business Academy Primary School Yr 6</li> </ol>
<b>Number of respondents</b>	390 children aged 5 – 11 years 48 teachers, teaching assistants and volunteer parents
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	School Engagement Project info and booking forms distributed to every LBBexley school
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Teachers believe Lesnes Abbey Woods offers something unique to other local sites they already visit particularly the steep woodland and Abbey heritage</li> <li>▪ Parents who came as helpers made a point about a café on site being a positive feature of the park and a meeting hub for locals/community groups</li> <li>▪ The current website received nothing but negative comments because of its lack of information</li> <li>▪ Some teachers/adults feel the bridge from Thamesmead is very off-putting for accessing the park and gets flooded</li> <li>▪ All teachers, TAs and adults strongly felt that a place to get warm /access hot drinks and snacks with toilets is essential to making a school visit</li> <li>▪ All viewed an educational area in the information centre as multipurpose, for community and family users as well as schools (estimated school use 20-30 school visits across an academic year supposing visits prioritised spring and summer terms)</li> <li>▪ Schools asked for exciting, interactive interpretation, trails and visual signage</li> </ul>

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

### Your Park, Your Say - Community Engagement consultation programme (January – March 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Youth Engagement</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	Face to face discussion forums led by Smiley Ark youth group meeting with various other local youth engagement/support groups and their young people 13 – 21 years
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	Wavehill and Smiley Ark youth
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Smiley Ark (20)</li> <li>2. Abbey Wood Pentecostal Church (10)</li> <li>3. Active Horizons (25)</li> <li>4. Bexley Athletics Club (10)</li> <li>5. Bexley College (10)</li> <li>6. Bexley Youth Council (15)</li> <li>7. C4L Youth (10)</li> <li>8. Nemesis Martial Arts (10)</li> <li>9. Phoenix Football Club (10)</li> <li>10. Playhouse Theatre (10)</li> </ol>
<b>Number of respondents</b>	130
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	Direct user recruitment through existing and established groups
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Young people would appreciate improved disabled access across the park</li> <li>▪ Young people focused significantly on positive physical activities and resources (trim trail/obstacle course, circuit for running and training, breakdance, free-running, gymnastics, rock climbing, dance, extreme sports opportunities, outdoor table tennis)</li> <li>▪ The consultees suggested the relevance of creative and artistic opportunities (creative ideas printed into concrete paths or murals)</li> <li>▪ The groups asked for water fountains and refreshment facilities</li> <li>▪ Playground improvements included a first aid point, toilets</li> <li>▪ Ecological features were highlighted (water features, pond dipping, mini beats zoos, butterfly / bee farm, bird watching opportunities)</li> </ul>

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

### Your Park, Your Say - Community Engagement consultation programme (January – March 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Sport, Wellbeing &amp; Outdoor Activities</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	Adult and young people’s taster activities on site at the park with post activity questionnaires (Michelle’s joggers and Embrace Co-operation)
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	LBBexley sports develop team and youth services
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	Local jogging, healthy walks and orienteering adults and young people
<b>Number of respondents</b>	40
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	Direct user recruitment through existing and established groups
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parking, usually cited as a problem, was viewed positively for non-commuter time activities</li> <li>▪ Use of the park for jogging and walking was unanimously a positive experience</li> <li>▪ Participants would happily return to the park for recreational and physical activity purposes</li> <li>▪ Timed jogger’s and fitness routes for various abilities was seen as positive</li> <li>▪ Participants repeatedly spoke of a refreshment function for the park</li> </ul>

### Your Park, Your Say - Community Engagement consultation programme (January – March 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Heritage, Arts and Cultural Activities</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	Possible park event co-ordination
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	LBBexley with Richmond Event Management
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local community and stakeholder groups</li> <li>2. Historical, environmental, conservation and archaeological groups</li> <li>3. Local performing arts groups</li> <li>4. Sports groups</li> <li>5. LBBexley libraries and archives</li> </ol>
<b>Number of respondents</b>	30
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	Direct approach and meetings
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There was emphatic support for the park’s use as a potential site for public community events from potential contributors</li> <li>▪ The park’s inherent ability to highlight local history, heritage and conservation cited as very valuable</li> <li>▪ Local groups expressed the need for ‘something in the area/in this part of the borough’</li> <li>▪ The park as a venue was explored without any location, topography or access issue being raised that couldn’t be overcome</li> </ul>

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

### Your Park, Your Say - Community Engagement consultation programme (January – March 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Visual identity, logo and communication styles</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	Park visits, creative arts and literacy sessions
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	Creative Junction (Anna Jones, Subadhassi)
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Active Horizons, Belvedere (25)</li><li>2. Emmanuel Baptist Church, Thamesmead (10)</li><li>3. Smiley Ark after school club (20)</li><li>4. SAY youth group (20)</li><li>5. Sure Start Children’s Centre, Greenmead (25)</li></ol>
<b>Number of respondents</b>	100+
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	Direct user recruitment through existing and established groups
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Additional baby changing facilities requested</li><li>▪ Café seen as beneficial</li><li>▪ Viewing platform to take in London and the site’s features cited</li><li>▪ More benches around the park</li><li>▪ Boot scrapers on exits</li><li>▪ Install more dog bins and dog free zones</li><li>▪ Invest in a treatment to the ‘off putting’ footbridge across Abbey Road entrance</li><li>▪ Clear/new car parking and new entrance by the playground area</li><li>▪ More accessible improved paths with some stepping on slopes</li><li>▪ Hike routes with clearer times / distances less cryptic signage</li><li>▪ Less aggressive gates - more inviting</li><li>▪ Current park logo received 66% negative comments</li><li>▪ Integrate acrostic poems, designs for logos and straplines into signage and interpretation</li></ul>

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

### Your Park, Your Say - Community Engagement consultation programme (January – March 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Community Gardens</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	Direct engagement, discussions and meetings
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	New Leaf (Vinnie O'Connell)
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Bexley Heritage Trust (Hall Place gardener team)</li><li>2. Trust Thamesmead</li><li>3. Bexley Youth Council</li><li>4. Bexley Youth Services</li><li>5. Galleons Housing</li><li>6. Allotment gardeners (Lesnes Abbey Woods allotments)</li><li>7. Lesnes Abbey Woods park users</li><li>8. Northwood Primary School</li></ol>
<b>Number of respondents</b>	50
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	Direct user recruitment through existing and established groups
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The potential success for a Monks' Garden teaching resource is evident, and could be easily achieved</li><li>▪ Park users suggested that a Sensory Garden should be a continuation of the Monks Garden</li><li>▪ A community growing space did not receive much feedback from local people and there were negative concerns regarding vandalism and theft</li><li>▪ Accessible integrated sensory and historical gardens could benefit from a fully interactive trail that includes the Abbey ruin, and fish pond</li></ul>

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

### Masterplan Public Consultation Road-show (18 – 30 March 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Masterplan proposals</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manned road-show tour (The Link Thamesmead, Crook Log Leisure Centre, Belvedere Community Centre)</li> <li>▪ Permanent exhibitions (Civic Centre, Lesnes Abbey Woods information centre, The Link Thamesmead, Upper Belvedere Library)</li> <li>▪ Online survey (via the LBBexley website)</li> </ul>
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	LBBexley and Wavehill
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	Residents of LBBexley, general public
<b>Number of respondents</b>	50 completed Masterplan questionnaire surveys 150 at road-show events
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	<p>Tweeted @bexleycomms, @whatsoninbexley and @greenbexley (20 – 30 March)</p> <p>Information published via LB Bexley website (15 March)</p> <p>A5 flyer distribution (06 – 08 March)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6 x LB Bexley libraries</li> <li>2. Abbey Wood Library (RBG)</li> <li>3. 3 x LB Bexley Leisure Centres</li> <li>4. 13 x Community stakeholder venues (e.g. Belvedere Community Centre, Sure Start Greenmead, The Link, Inspire Community Trust)</li> <li>5. 6 x LB Bexley local primary schools</li> <li>6. Local residents with adjacent boundary to the park (New Road north side, Abbey Road, Elstree Gardens, Hurst Place Estate, Woolwich Road/New Road south side, The View/Treetops Close area)</li> </ol>
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<p><b>Please refer to Wavehill Masterplan Analysis Report for full details</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A high proportion of respondents would like a café type facility</li> <li>▪ Some concern at number of dogs currently using site</li> <li>▪ Respondents want the park to remain very natural</li> <li>▪ A comment about potential car parking issues</li> <li>▪ Improved Pathways would encourage more people (73%) to use the Park more fully</li> <li>▪ Improved signage would encourage more people (82%) to use the Park more fully</li> <li>▪ Better Play facilities for children and improvements to the information and displays of the Abbey ruins</li> <li>▪ A highly encouraging 27% of people are interested in volunteering in the Park, and a further 42% may be interested in volunteering.</li> </ul>

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

User and Non-User Surveys (20th and 21st February 2013, 10th and 11th of April 2013, 29th and 30th of May 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Benchmarking of current users and usage, Activity Plan and Masterplan</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	Interviewer led field surveys Online questionnaires
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	Wavehill
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	Residents of LBBexley, general public
<b>Number of respondents</b>	429 (260 park user surveys completed, 169 non users' surveys completed)
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	Tweeted @bexleycomms, @whatsoninbexley and @greenbexley3 (20 – 30 March) Information published via LB Bexley website (15 March) A5 flyer distribution (06 – 08 March) <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 6 x LB Bexley libraries</li><li>2. Abbey Wood Library (RBG)</li><li>3. 3 x LB Bexley Leisure Centres</li><li>4. 13 x Community stakeholder venues (e.g. Belvedere Community Centre, Sure Start Greenmead, The Link, Inspire Community Trust)</li><li>5. 6 x LB Bexley local primary schools</li><li>6. Local residents with adjacent boundary to the park (New Road north side, Abbey Road, Elstree Gardens, Hurst Place Estate, Woolwich Road/New Road south side, The View/Treetops Close area)</li></ol>
<b>Summary of findings</b>	Please refer to Wavehill consultation report



## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

Stakeholder Working Group meetings (05 December 2012, 01 February 2013, 06 August 2013, 14 February 2014, 20 October 2014)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Activity Plan, Masterplan, Conservation Management Plan</b>	
<b>Consultation method</b>	Convened stakeholder meetings	
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	LB Bexley	
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Belvedere Community Forum</li> <li>2. The Link</li> <li>3. Bexley Archaeological Group</li> <li>4. North West Kent Countryside Partnership</li> <li>5. Bexley Heritage Trust</li> <li>6. Orbit Housing Association</li> <li>7. Bexley Nature and Environment Forum</li> <li>8. Primary School Headteachers Conference Group</li> <li>9. Embrace Co-operation</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Re-Instate Ltd</li> <li>11. Gallions Housing Association</li> <li>12. Smiley Ark</li> <li>13. Inspire Community Trust</li> <li>14. Sure Start Children’s Centre Greenmead</li> <li>15. Lesnes Abbey Conservation Volunteers</li> <li>16. Trust Thamesmead</li> <li>17. and teams from the London Borough of Bexley including: Integrated Youth Service, Libraries and Archives, Schools Improvement, Sports Development</li> </ol>
<b>Number of respondents</b>	140 = 05 December 2012 (35), 01 February 2013 (40), 06 August 2013 (15), 14 February 2014 (30), 20 October 2014 (20)	
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	Direct user recruitment through existing and established groups	
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Initiate activity programme (linked to health and wellbeing, smoking cessation, healthy walks, Nordic walking, Park Run...)</li> <li>▪ More guided walks, trails and orienteering</li> <li>▪ Attract partnerships with stakeholder groups e.g. Charlton Athletic, housing associations, Scouts, Army Reserves, U3A groups, historical societies</li> <li>▪ Better marketing and publicity, web presence, signage</li> <li>▪ Café, toilets, bowling green</li> <li>▪ Better visitor information</li> <li>▪ Value the site’s character</li> </ul>	

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

### Masterplan – pre application update session *Plans, Progress and Proposals* (06 August 2013)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Masterplan</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	On site meeting with project staff and park visitors
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	LB Bexley
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	Park visitors
<b>Number of respondents</b>	Approximately 30 visitors
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	700 flyers distributed to the local residents with a boundary with the park
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Support of the application to HLF</li><li>▪ Support of the proposed investment in the park</li><li>▪ Concerns around vandalism and anti-social behaviour</li><li>▪ Positive response from large majority of the contributors to the new building design and function</li><li>▪ One negative comment regarding the new building's function for the area</li></ul>

## Lesnes Abbey Woods Enhancement Project

# “What was said”

### Delivery Phase (Phase 2) Masterplan Community Engagement Design Programme (01 April – 15 May 2014)

<b>Area of consultation</b>	<b>Masterplan Designs</b>
<b>Consultation method</b>	On site workshops with park visitors, schools sessions, community and youth group workshops
<b>Lead delivery organisation</b>	LB Bexley with Creative Junction and Mei Loci Landscape Architects
<b>Consultee Group(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Park visitors</li> <li>2. St Fidelis School</li> <li>3. Smiley Ark Kids</li> <li>4. Smiley Ark Youth</li> <li>5. Emmanuelle Church (Pastor Victor Lambert)</li> <li>6. Roger Simpson – Transform Bexley</li> <li>7. Tristan Boulton –Lesnes Abbey Conservation Volunteers</li> <li>8. Bexley Youth Council</li> <li>9. Bexley Children’s Parliament</li> </ol>
<b>Number of respondents</b>	475 (discovery days at the park 355, design workshops 100, sharing event 20)
<b>Recruitment/Publicity</b>	Direct user recruitment through existing and established groups and park visitors on the day of events
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shame that visitors centre is being pulled down – it’s part of the ruins – daily dog walker</li> <li>▪ Concern about the woodland and security</li> <li>▪ Positive responses to ‘ the windows’ (skyline viewing point plans)</li> <li>▪ Await the result! Lovely idea. Came 30 years ago will be back (skyline viewing point plans)</li> <li>▪ Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park has tanks with frog spawn and would be lovely addition to learning</li> <li>▪ Cafe could programme live music/events</li> <li>▪ The Heathland: wood tables and chairs for children; big gazebo; logs; maze?</li> <li>▪ New Terrace: Seating outside with maybe a blackboard or a white board for schools; pathways for disabled people; mosaics</li> <li>▪ Green Man carving – more possible?</li> <li>▪ A similar scheme to the Danson Park run – a lap around the park every weekend and attempt to beat your time each week. Regular 5K runs</li> </ul>